Pass Christian Area
1699 1999
Colonization Tricentennial Committee

Pass Christian, Mississippi

The Tricentennial

Volume 2, Issue Six May 3, 1999

Let's all get EXCITED! Ocho de Mayo is Here!

Jennie Lou Mintz has a full slate of musicians and a full plate of savoring foods to satiate our passions and palates. Come dress comfortable and bring along a chair or rug to sit upon while the music keeps us all hopping.

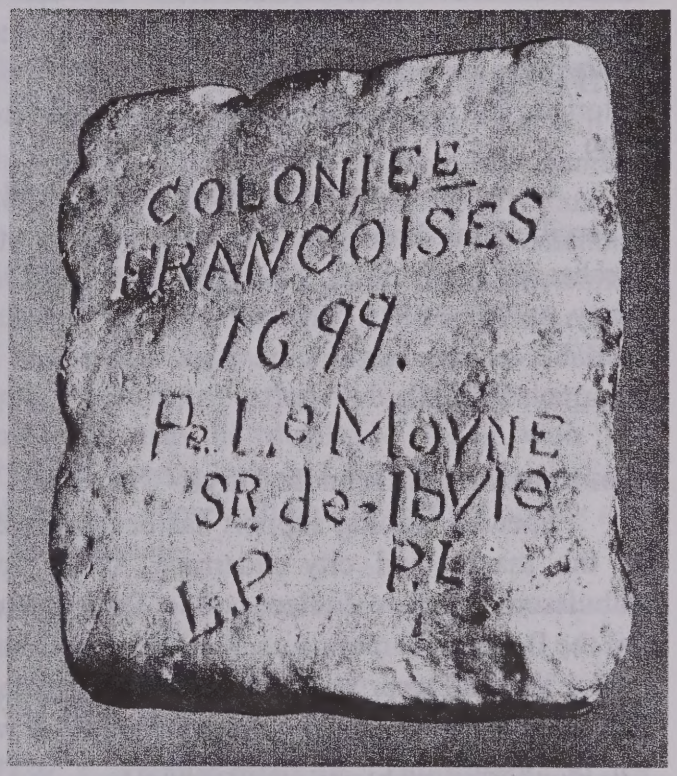
Memorial Park will be swinging with a full cast of bands from here and afar. Starting promptly at 11 a.m. until 9 p.m., the festive occasion is one you will remember. Call your friends and make a day of it.

The food fare includes the *We Care Group* with Bar-B-Q Ribs and Chicken, the *Booster Club* flipping hot-dogs and hamburgers, and *Nick's Beach Side Pizza* serving up Baklava and Kaitiazi, and Mufalettas and Gyros. *Voodoo Rain* will be popping Cold Health Drinks, also available will be beer and soft drinks.

With nearly a year of preparations, Jennie Lou still needs a few volunteers to handle some of the day's events and activities. Her support team consists of her husband Bob who has handled a myriad of things, Ellie Brown, Stan Weidman, Virgil Harris, Tim Farnsworth, Otis Gates, Toby Erwin, and Kelly Levi.

On Sunday, May 8 *(Ocho de Mayo)* starting early will be other support volunteers including Dayton Robinson, Dan Ellis, Avery Allen, Charles Melson, Jim Sager, Tracy Gordon Goff, A.C. Smith, Roy Stoddard, Ron & Rosie Daley, Helen Davis, Karen Parsel, Ermagene Delony, Zander Halloway, Natasha & Norma Davis, Marge Justice, Tina vanOord, Mary Ann Hubmann, Brigitte Ballaron, Russ & June Wirt, Robin DiGiacomo, and many more. *(Continue on next page)*

D'Iberville Stone



A Piece of the Rock

At no other time during the past 300 years, at least not since the unearthing of the original d'Iberville Stone, has there been a spark of interest in replicating the historic marker. But, here on Davis Avenue in Pass Christian, local sculptor Brian Nettles duplicated an actual size stone as that which now hangs on a Cabildo wall in New Orleans. This pursuit was followed by Tracy Gordon Goff seeking out a crafts artisan to produce a Tricentennial pendant. *(Contintue on next page)*

(Continued from "A Piece of the Rock")

After foraging for a dedicated artist, she found Ellis Anderson in Bay St. Louis's *Old Town*.

Ms. Ellis Anderson has been a jewelry designer and silver/goldsmith for 15 years, during which time she has won numerous awards for her artistry. Some of her recent works have been a special City of New Orleans pin for President Clinton, a French Quarter Festival commemorative, and a Toast of the Coast special order.

The stone was found in 1910 in Ocean Springs near to where the first French fort settlement was located and was presented to the Louisiana State Museum at New Orleans for archival display. The lettering on the stone and how the words and numbers are made suggests to historians that the stone is an authentic artifact from 1699.

Only 100 of these handmade sterling silver d'Iberville Stone brooches were made. They can be purchased locally from Valentino's, or by calling Tracy at 452-8519. The pendants will also be available at the Jazz in the Pass celebration on Saturday, May 8th.

(Continued from Ocho de Mayo - Jazz Fest)

Special ongoing support has been provided by the mayor and city aldermen, Chief John Dubuisson and the volunteer police, Dave LaRosa and the Board of Supervisors, the Harrison County Public Works Department, and a special salute to Ms. Simmons and the High School Beta Club who will be monitoring clean-up on Sunday.

Organizational support has been contributed by the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Gulf Coast Newcomers Club, Friends of the Library, and the Pass Alumni Association.

T-Shirts are available at the Chamber of Commerce and local banks. Additional Tricentennial memorabilia will be on sale at the Jazz in the Pass.

In case of RAIN -- the program will go on! -- at the VFW Hall -- so don't miss out!

JAZZ MUSIC MENU

Saturday, May 8th

11:00 AM **Pass Christian Schools,**
Tim Farnsworth & Mary Bowser, Directors

12 Noon **Mother of Mercy Gospel Choir,**
Georgette Cox, Director

1:00 PM **The Perfect Mixx**
(Soul, R&B, Blues, Pop, etc.)
A.J. Brown, Manager and Background vocalist; Jesse Flowers, Assistant Manager & Keyboardist; Keven Brame, Lead Guitar; Lloyd Rushing, Lead Vocalist; Craig Flowers, Drummer; Mitchell Hutson, Bass Guitar; Barbara Seymour, Lead Vocalist.

2:00 PM **The Mississippi Mud-Bugs,**
(Traditional Jazz)
M.O. Calvert, Coronet; Dr. Rory Duffour, Clarinet; Thomas Carleton, Trombone; Leroy Sparky Penton, drums; Joan Pizzolato, Banjo; Arnold C. Johnson, Piano; Joe Larane, Bass Guitar.

3:00 PM **Gulf Breeze**
(Blues, Pop, Rock, Country)
Nick Trout plus his Dazzlin Seven.

4:00 PM **Dixie Dots,** (Traditional Jazz)
Doc Balderas, Bass Guitar; Jack Seghers, Trumpet; Bill Lee, Saxophone; Arnie Johnson, Piano; Joe Lorane, Bass; Mo Calvert, Trumpet.

5:00 PM **S.P.I.C.E.** *Spirited People Interjecting Creative Energies*. Jazz, Blues, and Dixieland Jazz Don "Cadillac" Henry, promoter; Fairley Richards, Manager; Players on trumpet, alto-sax, tenor-sax, base, drums, and keyboards.

6:00 PM **New Orleans Banjos**
(Traditional Jazz and Dixieland)
Joan "Johnny" Pizzolato, Plectrum Banjo; Emmett Smith, Jr., Tenor Banjo; Avery Stirratt, Plectrum Banjo; Dr. Arthur Payzant, Electric Bass; Jim Pizzolato, Piano and Keyboard.

7:00 PM **S.P.I.C.E.** *Spirited People Interjecting Creative Energies*. Jazz, Blues, and Dixieland Jazz --

8:00 PM **JAM SESSION** -- All remaining band members and anyone who wants to sit in!

Blessing of the Fleet

The day was sunny and bright and many folks turned out at the East Harbor site to dance, drink, eat, and fellowship. John Dane's *"Sho-Down"* hosted the clergy and judges. The winning boats were Best Overall, the *Captain Joby*, First Place Commercial under 35' was *Capt. Gene* followed by *Niki Lee* and *Harpoon*. First Place Commercial 36'-45' was *Brandon* followed by *Why Not* and *Ruby C.* First Place over 46' was the *T.C.* followed by *Capt. Cam* and *Sea Lady*. Pleasure Overall was won by *Miss Behavin* followed by *Still Restless* and *Sherry Ann.*

Congratulations to Chip McDermott and the Blessing Committee for a job Well Done!

On Jazz Funerals

When the final day arrives, funeral plans complete, a procession to the church would form. First in the line-up is the funeral hearse, drawn usually by four black horses and then followed by immediate family members. Behind, a group of musicians would be followed by friends and acquaintances. With the completion of church services, on the way to the cemetery the music would be slow and solemn. Once the body was entombed and the final blessings given, the band would play joyful, fast, and loud music to acknowledge the deceased had achieved the ultimate goal of meeting his maker.

Before "Jazz" originated, Irish immigrants initiated the above process in what they called "Musical Funerals." -- And, no Irish gentleman in his right mind went directly home. Family and friends would stop by a local "pub" to "wash away the cemetery dust."

Jazz Funerals became an adaptation of the Irish musical funerals with the same form of procession, except that frequently "jus' strangers" would file in rank to emulate the "mourners." Those who followed behind the family and musical group became known as "Second-liners." Because semi-tropical New Orleans was subject to daily showers in the summer months, many mourners carried umbrellas as protection from rain and sun. With the humidity and the heat of the day, marchers would constantly mop their brows while flourishing their handkerchiefs.

Eventually, umbrellas became decorated and the waving of kerchiefs doubled as banners. Thus said, everyone can be part of a second-line, even if it means just waving a hat or a fan in tune to the music. A peppy step is all that's added.

Merchandise Available

The Tricentennial Mardi Gras Float will be called back into service as the Merchandise headquarters at the Jazz Fest where all items of heritage interest can be purchased. Tricentennial Lapel Pins, Tricentennial Doubloons, Tricentennial Pendants, "Jazz in the Pass" T-Shirts, Umbrellas, and Hankies; Lighthouse Paintings and Photographs. The historic flags which flew along the Coast will also be displayed along with the D'Iberville bronze bust and the scale model of the Lighthouse. There will be lots of food booths and fun for everyone.

Parking *and Street Closings*

On Saturday, May 8th, Fleitas Avenue at the Park will be closed to traffic as well as Scenic Drive in front of the Park from the VFW Hall up to Russell's Service Station will be barricaded.

Parking will be available at the playgrounds from Second Street to the Railroad and at other Event Parking locations.

Bring along a lounge chair!

The Fighting VFW

The V.F.W. Post #5931 was chartered February 20, 1946 soon after the local World War II veterans returned home. The Post derived its name from Pass native, Cecil R. Ruddock, a naval seaman who was killed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The Women's Auxiliary came into being on June 5, 1958. Through the years, these two groups have greatly augmented other Pass service organizations with activities, contributions, and community dedication. At one time or another, most of the leading citizens have served as Post or Auxiliary officers or committee chairpersons.

Although the original purchase of the Post Home was only $12,500.00, extensive renovations were made in addition to acquiring needed furnishings. After 12 years of arduous fund-raising, the Vets burned their mortgage 3 years ahead of schedule. Prior to the purchase, the VFW constructed a wharf at the Park. However, Hurricane Camille caused major damages in '69 with another setback in '74 which occured from serious fire damages. The 1350 foot-long pier had a broad 100 foot "T" at its end and was open to the public for fishing and swimming. It too, was destroyed in '69.

The VFW has stalwartly championed the promotion and observances of Americanism, Patriotism, and Loyalty to Flag and Country and to all Veterans who are living, disabled or deceased including members of their families.

The building that houses the Vets is one of the significant historical landmarks of Pass Christian. Originally, it was a shed that was later enclosed in 1852. By 1875, it was known as the *"Trading Place"* which housed out-of-towner merchants and their horse or ox-teams. Traveling salesmen and farmers brought their wares and produce from inland villages to sell locally or to sell from the docks to schooners anchored off-shore. For many years it was also known as *Rhodes Store* for its owner, the mayor, C.M. Rhodes.

In 1902, it became a plumbing and tin makers shop owned by the Chapotels. During Mardi Gras season, the Chapotels cleared out the downstairs plumbing shop to provide space for some of the early Mardi Gras Balls held in the Pass. After severe damages following the 1915 hurricane, the building was enlargedand became the *Courtenay Grocery Store*. Upstairs was the residence for the Thomas Courtenay family.

During World War I the American Red Cross used the building for volunteers to assemble and roll bandages. Then in 1941, it was used for storage by the Merchant Marines; and later Frank Wharton converted it to a furniture store. After several years of vacancy, it became available to the veterans of World War II.

Through the years, significant contributions have been made by the VFW such as lighting of the tennis courts, student scholarships, Toys for Tots, in addition to gifts of American Flags to the Memorial Park, City Hall, Fire Stations, and the Scout Hut. Devout in their meaningful support, they have planted trees in the Park, sponsored and funded the Camille Memorial Stone which honors the 68 people who lost their lives in that Killer storm, and they have fostered programs for Senior Citizen activities, raised funds for Cancer research and Drug abuse programs, and on special occasions they have displayed American flags along Scenic Drive, even as far as from City Hall to VFW Hall for the 1976 Bi-Centennial celebration.

Every year, the VFW has extended the use of their facilities for the staging ground and start-up of the annual St. Patrick's Parade. They also host the roasting and toasting by VIPs of the Grand Marshall.

Roscoe Scarborough has been Post Commander several times and has even held the State Commander position. Along with the new slate of officers, he encourages new or renewal memberships to all war veterans who have served overseas. However, member or not, Vets and civilians alike are always welcome to join in the fellowship offered most evenings or weekends.

At the upcoming installation of new officers the Post will be headed by Jimmy Morgan, Commander; Anita Favre -- Sr. Vice; John May -- Jr. Vice; and Baxter Jones, Quartermaster; Jake Erwin, Chaplain; Frank O'Leary, Judge Advocate; Sidney Gonzales, Surgeon; Trustees: Clyde Favre and Avery Allen; and Board members: Robert VanCourt and Roy Stewart.

The Auxilliary Ladies will be headed by Sheryl Ladner, President; Lupe Dedeaux -- Sr. Vice; Donna Scarborough -- Jr. Vice; Audrey Morgan, Treasurer; Julia Cerra, Chaplain; Nita Scarborough, Conductress; Clara Sydow, Guard; Ann Latino, Patriotic Instructor; and Trustees: Betty Bates, Nita Tabor, and Catherine Martin.

DeLisle Dogma

Changing Wolves into Lambs was the call by Father Theodore Meerschaert in a letter to Bishop Elder on January 7, 1874, with the announcement that a church had been built at the Wolf River. The Church records document other ministrations by Father LeDuc and Father Dutto from Bay St. Louis; Father Oberti from Pass Christian; and Father Van Waesberghe from Jordan River. In 1882, the place was called Wolftown. During the late 1880s, Father Ketels was there and also built a mission at Cuevas in honor of St. Lucy, which was dedicated on October 12, 1890. Father Mortier was at DeLisle in the late 1890s before being replaced by Father René Sorin, who remained there to serve DeLisle and its Missions for 55 years. During that time Father Sorin built churches or chapels at DeLisle, Saucier, Sheri Dedeaux, Cuevas, Lizana, Dubuisson, and at Delmas Dedeaux.

The only church at DeLisle was *Our Lady of Good Hope* until 1922, when a rift caused the Black parishioners to build their own church with the support of Josephite priest, Father Stephen Sweeney of St. Philomena's (Our Mother of Mercy) in Pass Christian. The Black church was first called the *Immaculate Conception*, but at its dedication was named *St. Stephens Church* in honor of Father Sweeney's patron saint.

Following Sorin's death in 1953, Father John O'Brien succeeded, and was followed by Father Hubert Wolf, Rev. Owen Farrell, Rev. Joel Bladt, Rev. Mitchell Gilbride, Rev. Nathan Kay. In 1969, Our Lady of Good Hope was totally demolished resulting in the White parishioners being greeted at St. Stephen's church. The Church and Parish was once more united as Father Abram Dono, a Trinity Missionary became the first Pastor of the reunited Parish in DeLisle on January 1, 1973.

Black Musicians of the Pass

John Handy and Joe B. Jackson were contemporaries with local musical family backgrounds. They were often cast together in the same bands as they played their favorite Dixieland Jazz tunes.

- Captain John Handy was known as the "Jazz King". Following his death in January 1971, occured the first New Orleans styled Jazz Funeral in Mississippi which was attended by more than 4000 participants. Handy produced several European recordings, one of which was called *Handyman Vol 2*. The altoist (saxaphone and clarinet) was backed by a quartet playing hot and gutsy New Orleans style jazz and raw-type blues. He was noted for his songs: *Indiana, Dinah, Rosetta,* and *John Handy's Boogie Woogie.*
- Joe B. Jackson another musician and pianist, toured the world with other entertainers. He died in April 1978 and was also honored as hundreds of friends, musicians, and mourners attended the Jazz procession.
- Eddie Watson and his brothers, Harry, Charles "Blue", and Henry "Gator", formed the Watson Brothers and were well known local musicians who played at the Miramar Hotel, the Yacht Club and other night spots.

• Jeanette Salvant Kimball was pianist for the "Papa" Celestin Band from New Orleans who frequently played at local socials and at the Yacht Club.

• Don "Cadillac" Henry played several instruments and was promoter for a number of Jazz Greats who made the International circuit. His support in bringing the SPICE group to the *"Jazz in the Pass"* Festival brings the music of the past Pass Jazz Greats alive once more!

REQUIEM *for the Lily*

Placide Nicaise has completed a sequel to his first publication, "Children of the Lily." His style of writing is impressive as he romanticizes the glory and the challenges of early colonial settlements and the first French families. In "Requiem for the Lily," the prime cast of players are names very much familiar to Pass Christian and the Gulf Coast. There is the driven and defiant Eugene Dubuisson and his wife "Rae" who was a foundling from Cat Island. Vividly portrayed are the dauntless escapades of Jean Baptiste Nicaise and his wife Marie Catherine Miou.

"This novel continues through the lives of these characters and into the beginnings of the next generation. Their story of passion, adventure, and hardship begins as they watch their dreams die, and ends as they see them reborn in another time and another place."

Placide, the author, will be making an autographing tour along the Coast on Saturday, May 8th. When he completes his 3:30 signings at Book Ends, Bay St. Louis, he will try to stop by the Jazz in the Pass Festival.

Old Pass Families *Revisited*

Both, Mary Catherine Ward and Shannon Pickich, Jr. sent in correcting information pertaining to "Old Families" in the last Issue. The article should have read: *"The joining of Hansons and Courtenays took place when Herbert Hampton Hanson married Catherine Madeline Courtenay,* ***producing five children:*** *Herbert C. Hanson, Julia Cerra, Dora Ellen Pickich, Irene Hodges and Mary Catherine Ward."*

Sea Coast Echo

As a Newspaper, the Sea Coast Echo has been around for quite a number of years. Ellis Cuevas, Editor, has been very supportive in posting Pass Chrisian news accounts during the last few years. The following are some reprints from a century past.

During the last decade of the 19th Century, the early 1890s, the following news items were reported in the *Sea Coast Echo* of Bay St. Louis.

At the Pass Christian Opera House, the Richards & Pringle minstrels were slated for December 2, 1892. The band and orchestra was led by Billy Kersand.

Dr. W.E. Walker continues to make his visits to Pass Christian where his already large patronage is on a steady increase. *(SCE 12/03/1892)*
Walker's Dental office at water's edge at the head of Union Street in Bay St. Louis, was destroyed as a result of the hurricane of October 3, 1893. Nothing was saved of his instruments, medical library, dental fixtures, and fine funiture. (from the *Daily Picayune*, October 6, 1893).

Mr. Henry Estapa of Pass Christian's "Lone Star Saloon" spent Tuesday here on business. *(SCE 12/03/1892)*

Dr. W. F. Spence, a former resident of Hancock County, and who so ably represented it in the late Constitutional convention, has associated Dr. Robertson with him in the practice of physician and surgeon at Pass Christian. *(SCE 8/6/1892)*

The Olympic brass band of Pass Christian will give a grand ball on December 28, 1892. The leader, Mr. J. F. Curtis, has requested *The Echo* to extend an invitation through its columns to all gentlemen and ladies of Bay St. Louis who may wish to attend. *(SCE 12/10/1892)*

Street Names

Driving throughout the coast and in particular the Pass, the derivation of street names always stimulates curiosity. Many of the prominent names in Pass Christian were determined by Town Ordinances as published in 1858. Perusing old deeds prior to that period shows that there were but few streets named and a number of alleyways running north-south which carryied the names of the property owners in residence.

East-West streets were divided at Market Street with a numbering system beginning with 100. It is interesting to note from voting registers, telephone books, and mailing lists, that many traditionalists residing on Scenic Drive prefer using its former name, "Beach Boulevard." Historically, early deeds show it as "Shell Road" and later Front Road. While Second Street was known as Back Road and in some places *Pass Christian Road*. From Church Avenue westward, it was first called *Bay St. Louis Road*, and now it is St. Louis Street. Over periods of time, Front Road was referred to as First Street, then Boulevard Street, sometimes Ocean Boulevard, and then Beach Boulevard. It was also designated as "Highway 90" before 1953, before the opening of a new widened Highway 90 roadway, and since 1958 it is marked Scenic Drive with the establishment of the Pass Christian Historic District.

Other May Happenings

Pass Christian Highschool
Groundbreaking Ceremony
Last year on May 19, 1998
Pass Christian Elementary
35th Anniversary - May 4, 1964
Pass Christian Historical Society's
Annual Tour of Homes - May 2nd
Pass Christian Rotary Club
75th Anniversary - May 5th

PC Highschool Flag Corp

April & Amanda Carpenter, Beth Rester, Shawna Zimmerman, and Crystal Ashmore have been busily making Second Line Umbrellas and Hankies to be sold at the Jazz Fest. They will also demonstrate how to strut the *Second Line*.

Editorial Department
Dan Ellis – 452-3138
Dayton Robinson – 452-4543

Persons and Businesses who have not yet paid their memberships are asked to do so as a means helping to defray the cost of printing and distributing this newsletter. For $15 or more, memberships receive a fine quality Tricentennial Memorial Certificate.

Send To:Tricentennial Committee
POB 354, PC, MS 39571
Name:_____
Address:_____
City/Zip:_____

See you at Jazz in the Pass
Saturday, May 8th
11am to 9pm
Memorial Park & VFW

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS
The Tricentennial

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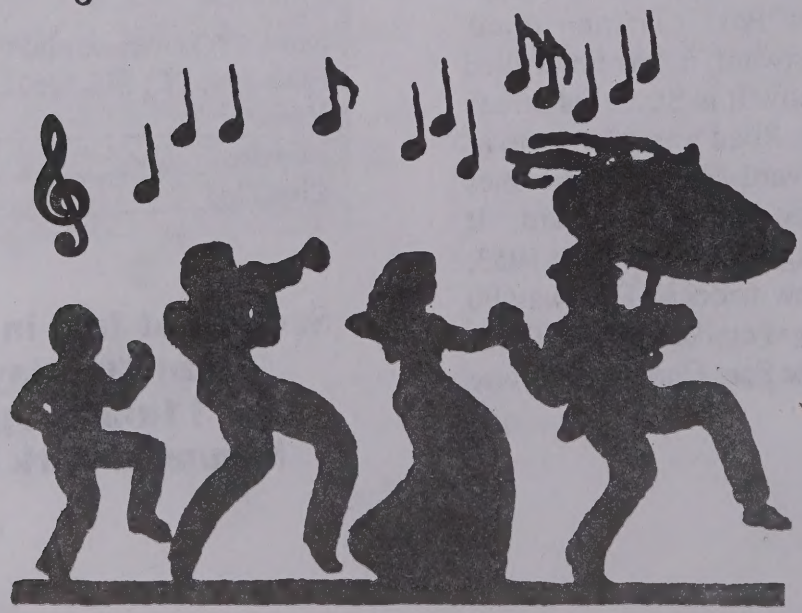
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